

The monthly A*C*E

Serving the Free Radio community since 1982
ANARC member 1983 - 2005

August 2005



from the desk of the Managing Editor

Ye Olde Editor: ACEHdq@localnet.com
or: (585) 365-8870 (not collect)

My luck is holding, of course: As soon as I excuse the lack of Vincent's Clandestine column due to his service in Iraq he sends a column. Oh well, good information sometimes shows up at odd times. With a little luck he'll be out of there in another couple months and probably be able to breathe easier.

In case you haven't checked the calendar, it's August. Summer is already almost over and you haven't begun your antenna projects? Well, shame on you. (I haven't either!) There's no time like the present – and it's never a good thing to get up on the roof during a blizzard – to check things out and fix things up a little. You're only hurting your own reception by not getting things done when the weather is good.

Onward...

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK

"Pirate Radio Invades the World Wide Web!"



- ✓ Audio Clips
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ QSLs
- ✓ The ACE
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ News
- ✓ The Grapevine
- ✓ Over 1000 Links

DiaLogs

August 2005

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AIM: KD1SQ / ICQ: 4139354 / Yahoo IM: KD1SQ

(Next deadline for submissions: 18th August, 2005)

Format of a log entry:

Date Heard / Time Heard (in UTC) / Frequency (in kHz) / Mode / Details of Transmission

Modes:

A = AM F = FM L = Lower Sideband U = Upper Sideband

Reporting a signal's quality:

The simplest way of doing this is to judge the signal as being "Poor", "Fair" or "Good" and reporting it as such.

If you're one of them highfalutin' types with radios that are smarter'n your dawg, you probably use the SIO system

S = Signal (strength)

I = Interference

O = Overall (quality)

- S, I and O are all rated between 0 and 5, 0 being worst, 5 being best. (As I recall, there were written tables for these values but I haven't seen one in a very long time. If you have the details somewhere, send 'em along to me!)

LATE LOGS

Take It Easy Radio (Merlin)

- 06/04/05, 0333, 6925U (JH-CO Poor)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

De nada. Zip.

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Grasscutter/Sunshine Radio (grasscutterrado@yahoo.com)

- 07/03/05, 0157-0204, 6900U – mx - "Lion Sleeps Tonight" song, joint show. (WS-TN Fair)
- 07/04/05, 0100, 6935U – ms - The Who's "I Can See for Miles", Pop, Metal, Blues. QSL via grasscutterrado@yahoo.com. (Hassig-IL Fair)

KCBN (FRN)

- 07/03/05, 0313-0500, 6990U – Alternating mx & discussion between two OM on the subjects of comedy clubs, comedians, television programming, the old being good and the new seeming inferior. Station ID around the half hour of "KCBN, Southern California..." Good production values, static made it almost unlistenable. (RE-CA Poor)
- 7/17/05, 0513-0544, 6900U - IDs, mentioned California. (WS-TN Poor)

KOSMOS (FRN)

- 7/15/05, 2340, 6925U - ID, email addresses. (WS-TN Good)

Pirate Radio Boston (Belfast)

- 06/25/05, 0235, 6875A – mx – Rock. DJ sounds very familiar, much dead air, would have been better in winter with no static. (WH-IL Poor)

- 06/26/05, 0404, 6925A - ID. (WS-TN Fair)
- 07/10/05, 0031-0036, 6800A - ID, mx. (WS-TN Poor)

Radio Pigmeat International (Belfast)

- 07/04/05, 0220, 6925A - mx - Reggae; James Bond version. (WS-TN Fair)

Sycko Radio (FRN)

- 07/11/05, 0057-0121, 8000A - mx, working on audio. (WS-TN Poor)

The Crystal Ship (Belfast/ tcsshorthwave@yahoo.com)

- 06/26/05, 0121-0225+, 6854A - mx - Rock (The Doors), drug songs mixed in with political talks criticizing the Iraq war and also criticizing corrupt and hypocritical politicians who run the country. Spock from Star Trek saying "Drugs are illogical". Pirate song at 0135. Used a slogan of "The Radio Voice of the Blue States Republic." Modest level, but generally copied. IDs by The Poet, announcing tcsshorthwave@yahoo.com and the Belfast, NY mail drop. (GZ-OH 232)(CL-MA 333)(WH-IL Fair)
- 07/02/05, 0128-0250*, 6855A - mx - Hendrix, The Doors, The Poet as announcer with "You are tuned to the Crystal Ship - the radio voice of the blue states republic". Sound clips from "Lost in Space." "We want the Airwaves" by the Ramones. (JH-CO Poor)
- 07/04/05, 0205, 8000A - ID. (WS-TN Poor)
- 07/04/05, 0230, 6854/6875A - mx - Springsteen. Clips from various movies incl "Casablanca", said George Washington crossed river to escape Pennsylvanian authorities, said vote for Benedict Arnold. Switched to 6875am at 0251 after announcement saying so, Folk mx, also on 8,000am but barely detected carrier there, faded at 0310utc. (WH-IL Poor)
- 07/17/05, 0130-0244*, 6854A - mx - AC/DC, Ramones. Drop address at 0243. Poet said going to 6875A then did w/Doors, Neil Diamond at 0412. Off at 0420 with the Ramones. (JH-CO Poor)

The Voice of Captain Ron Shortwave ()

- 07/11/05, 0140-0141, 6925 USB, mx, ID, (WS-TN poor).

Undercover Radio (Merlin/undercoverradio@mail.com)

- 06/25/05, 0104-0226*, 6925U - mx - Rock, Soft Rock. Frequent ID's giving undercoverradio@mail.com for "special" QSLs. Toward the end, they had their trademark slogans of "Broadcasting from the middle of nowhere" and "Don't tell them what we are doing." Off for about 5 minutes around 0200, but then came back on. (GZ-OH 222)
- 06/25/05, 0235-0417(?), 6925U - Poor, much static, said "Broadcast from the land of Blackbeard", sounded a bit like Alan Maxwell with sci-fi stories, tunes by Jimmy Buffet, Pop mx, QSL via undercoverradio@mail.com or Box 293, Merlin, Ontario. (WH-IL Poor)
- 07/02/05, *0103*, 6925A - A very brief transmission by Dr. Benway, who said he was testing. He gave an ID and wished everybody a safe 4th of July, but otherwise there was no programming at this time. (GZ-OH 343)
- 07/02/05, 2310, 6925A - Weak but clear, good audio. Dr. Benway Broadcasting "from the middle of nowhere." "Don't let them see us, don't let them know what we are doing!" Pop & Rap mx, songs "More than a Feeling" and "Hotel California". Some fading, QSL via undercoverradio@mail.com or box 293, Merlin, Ontario, Canada. (WH-IL Good)
- 7/3/05, 0013-0020, 6925 AM, "Stairway to Heaven" song, (WS-TN good).
- 07/03/05, 2340-0020+, 6925A - Prgm announced as a Fourth of July broadcast, consisting mainly of Rock mx, but with some Instrumental mx mixed in. "Don't tell them what we are doing" slogan and "Broadcasting from the middle of nowhere" slogan. Several IDs giving both the undercoverradio@mail.com e-mail address and also the Merlin mail drop address. It was not clear if the signal faded out here, or if there was a QRT at 0020. (GZ-OH 242)
- 07/04/05, 2338-0012, 6925A - mx - Rock, Rap. Dr. Benway with his usual slogans and address. At 0012 I lost it, and I don't know if that was a fade/out or a QRT. (GZ-OH 242)

WHGW (whgw6955@myway.com)

- 06/26/05, 2312-2357, 6925U - Digital best at first, followed by some ID's in CW. At 2315 became an audio program, which was mostly a drama of some sort ("The World of

Tomorrow"), mixed in w/instr mx. Gave whgw6955@myway.com for reports. (WS-TN poor) (GZ-OH 343)

- 07/03/05, 0305-0325, 6925U - "X Minus One" show. (WS-TN Fair)
- 07/04/05, 0310, 6925U - mx - Rock. Old radio drama "Crowder's Folly" about a man named Crowder who built a spaceship. From the "X Minus One" radio series from 1950's. (WH-IL Fair)

WHYP (Belfast)

- 07/03/05, 0127-0142, 6925A - ID. (WS-TN Fair)
- 07/16/05, 0016-0024, 6925A - Parody song to tune of "Eleanor Rigby". (WS-TN Fair)

WMPR (FRN)

- 07/05/05, 0023-0025, 6925U - Came on with a "WMPR - Micro Power Radio!" ID followed by one instr dance mx tune. This was the shortest best that I ever heard from them. No address, as usual. (GZ-OH 242)
- 07/05/05, 0100, 6925U - mx - Grateful Dead songs "Uncle Johns Band" and "Truckin'". OM announcer "WMPR" followed by YL "6925." (JH-CO Poor)

Yosemite Sam (none)

- 06/20/05, 0055-0100, 6925U - Yosemite Sam saying he will get rabbit, "Different Strokes" song, "A Team" song, "Dr. Who" song. (WS-TN Good)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

UNID

- 06/26/05, 2250, 6925A - Very weak, Johnny Cash singing "I've Been Everywhere", Heavy Metal version of "Heartbreak Hotel", unable to catch ID. (WH-IL Poor)
- 07/04/05, 0110, 6852A - DJ asking people what they're doing on the Fourth, one person said "getting drunk", off suddenly, this was not WEAK which did a program like that on 07-04-2003. (WH-IL Fair)
- 07/17/05, 0216-0219*, 6925U - mx - slow Rock song with football audio from the Silverdome mixed in over the mx. Apparently this was audio from a Detroit Lions play by play from some time ago. No ID or address heard during this short best. (GZ-OH 242)
- 07/17/05, *2201-2213*, 6925U - Program of odd Instrumental mx. Toward the end there was a sort of Donald Duck vocal over the mx. This one was hard to describe, and given the fact that they had no ID or address announcements, it is even more difficult to describe. (GZ-OH 242)
- 07/18/05, 0116-0201*, 6924A - mx - various Rock including "Against the Wind", "Night Moves", "Down On Main Street", "Brown Sugar", etc. No talk heard, thus no ID or address. Brief poorly copied sketch with an Elmer Fudd-style odd voice at 0026, but this was the only voice part of the best. Hendrix' version of the USA national anthem at close. (GZ-OH 242)

MAIL DROPS

These are the relevant - for this month - addresses to which you should send your reports as appropriate (along with at least three first class stamps to handle mailing costs) if you're doing things by snail mail or if the station doesn't use email.

Don't forget that foreign drops need IRCs or dollar bills instead of US postage stamps.

Semi-foreign drops (read: Canadians) need cash or IRCs but might accept cowry shells, beads or small hand mirrors. Poutine is an accepted medium of exchange only within the province of Quebec.

Of course, if you really want to cover all the bases - get with it and spend the vast sum of \$49 bucks (after rebate) for a Web TV box - as time goes by, more and more of the QSL business is being transacted via email.

Belfast: Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711

Merlin: Box 293, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0, CANADA

QSL CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE

Rudy Elsen, P.O. Box 21012, Castro Valley, CA 94546-9012 (RE-CA)

Jack Hammond, 2241 Oak Place, Thornton, CO 80229 (JH-CO)

William Hassig, 102 North Russel Street, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (WH-IL)

Chris Lobdell, Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180 (CL-MA)

Phil Schoenthal, 27 1/2 Whitney Place, Wellsville, NY 14895 (PS-NY)

Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, Tennessee 37950 (WS-TN)

George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

The August 1985 ACE was 24 pages with a work of art by Ralph Martinez on the cover. DiaLogs was 8 pages featuring 28 NAM and 11 unIDs from 33 reporters.

The August 1995 ACE was 24 pages with a WREC QSL on the cover. DiaLogs was 7 pages including 31 NAM, 1 Euro (Pirana), and 18 unIDs from at least 17 contributors.

RAMBLINGS

Well, a couple guys stepped up to report loggings for the first time - Jack Hammond and Phil Schoenthal - good going, guys, we need every one we can get, especially in the heart of summer which is the worst listening time of the year. Rudy Elsen over on the left coast also sent in a report. He also sent in some information and cuttings on the politics that get into Pirate radio on the FM band in his neck of the woods. I'll be printing that in the next issue. Thanks to all who took the time to sit down and send in what they heard!

...and if you heard something but didn't bother to send in a report, well.....

Up here in New England the summer continues to be pretty hot and humid. Nasty stuff. One side effect of all this is that of lots of thunderstorms. I've discovered that where I live (up on a hillside in a rural area) is subject to particularly nasty lightning displays. Stuff hits all around - very impressive and not a little disquieting, especially when a bolt hits just a hundred feet uphill. Already had one telephone fried by a storm, I've learnt to unplug everything from the phone lines and disconnect the VHF/UHF Discone antenna when nasty weather comes through.

Speaking of antennas, I *still* have to get one up for HF use; I'm starting to get the HF listening Jones here. Still too hot and bug infested a time of year for any sane individual to work outside so I figure I'll do a quick and easy one by getting the MLB and random length wire up in a tree with a nice long coax feed to get it away from the house and all the noise it (the house) can generate. I'll very likely be feeding it through one of the ICE static protection units as well, particularly given that I now live in lightning central.

I make extensive use of computers in the radio room, and reliability has been a bit of a problem at times. One of the more neglected aspects of building computers is that of adequate cooling as related to system reliability. The system gets too hot, it starts getting flaky. I've spent a few pennies investing in some additional low-noise cooling fans for inside the system cases and in buying some of those new-fangled round IDE cables (as opposed to the old style flat IDE ribbon cables) for internal device interconnection that tend to present less of a barrier to free air flow inside the system. Should help, we'll see.

Phil Schoenthal in the far west of NY state checked in for the first time in response to my comments on reader participation a couple of issues back. This report, while possibly of a licensed station, is more than sufficiently interesting that it deserves reproduction here -

Hello Leet!!!

I've actually been an ACE member since 1990. Never successfully sent anything to the ACE Dialogs, 'till now! I caught this UNID totally by accident. What I've sent you is a modified letter to John Arthur fwded to you.

UNID: 6/27/2005, 02:05UTC, I tuned in the truck radio to 1710 KHz AM to listen how close the t-storms are. What I heard was male announcer keying up and yelling what sounded like an Indian war cry. It was a strong signal lasting for about 15 sec, then off. What followed after that was a much, much, weaker signal of what sounded like a native American QSO with much fading. I listened for about a minute then hit the road. I couldn't understand it anyway. Has anyone heard anything like this? It was definitely different. (PS-NY)

- sounds pretty bizarre to me. Phil's way over, not too far from the Great Lakes region and Canada, so I wonder if it might have been a little traffic from one of the reservations out that way? I was always intrigued by those Native American radio stations that they have out west - I figured they'd make for some very different listening.

Okay, that's it for this month, time's very short as usual. If you hear it, send it in - while there's still an A.C.E. to send it in to...

PROPAGATION

What it be:

Okay, just like the sea, radio waves below a certain frequency display tide-like behavior that is dependent upon the time of day at your location and at the target location. (*Arrr, me hearties - 'tis a most appropriate metaphor!*) Listen for a given area at one time and you'll hear nothing. Listen, say, twelve hours later and you'll hear find you're looking for. That's a real simple description of a very complex subject.

The tables below can be looked upon as being like tide charts for a certain part of the world and a certain frequency. The higher the "tide" displayed, the better the radio path between the two points on the chart at that time on that frequency.

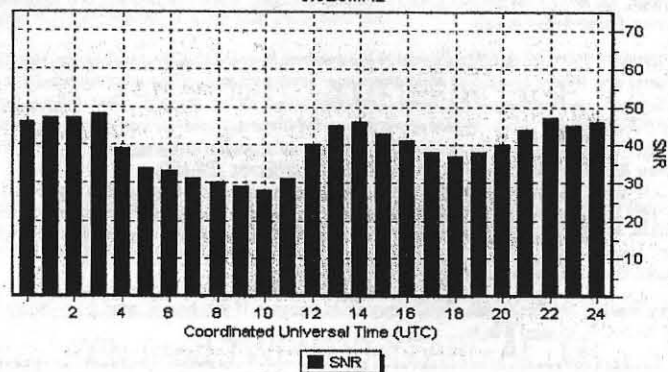
To try to provide useful propagation for the ACE readership I cover the most common Pirate frequencies month by month and I produce tables that roughly divide the USA into eastern, central and western sections and the propagation paths between them.

If you live, say, in Boston and want to try to listen for KMUD out in the western part of the country, you would check the table that says "Philadelphia, PA to Los Angeles, CA". This chart shows the radio "tides" between the two points that approximate where you are and where KMUD might be. Now look at the height of the bars - between 0200 and 0900 (that's UTC) looks to offer the best east-west listening path for you. Likewise, 1600-2100 might not be the best time to listen.

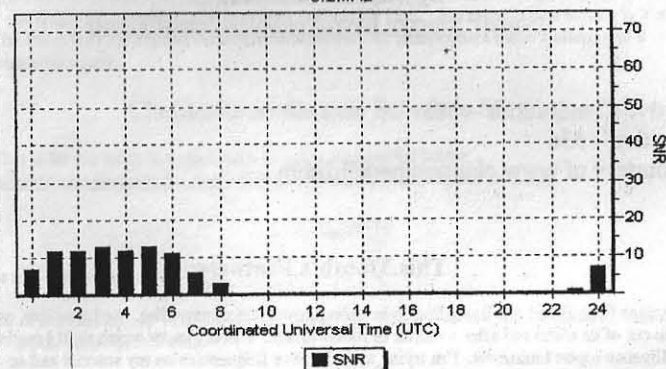
Caveat: These charts are rough guides only - radio propagation is even stranger than a Republican Senator who believes that poor folk need a break more than the obscenely wealthy do - you sometimes hear the darnedest things come out of nowhere when you least expect it. Use them as a guide but don't let it stop you listening for a target when it says propagation is at its poorest - just use them as indicators of "best chances"!

If you want to do more serious reading about propagation the book "The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook" is a pretty good read on the subject and even us po' folks who can't afford RX-340s can understand it!

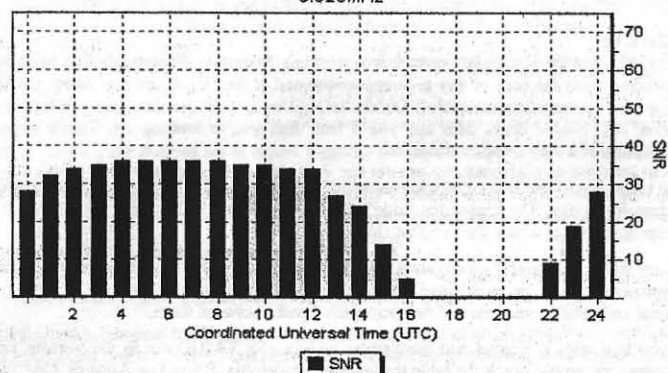
Aug. 2005 SSN: 26 Philadelphia, PA to Kansas City, KS
6.925MHz



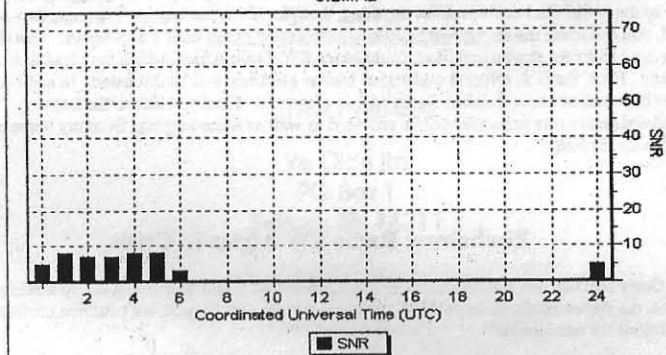
Aug. 2005 SSN: 26 Philadelphia, PA to Amsterdam, Netherlands
6.2MHz



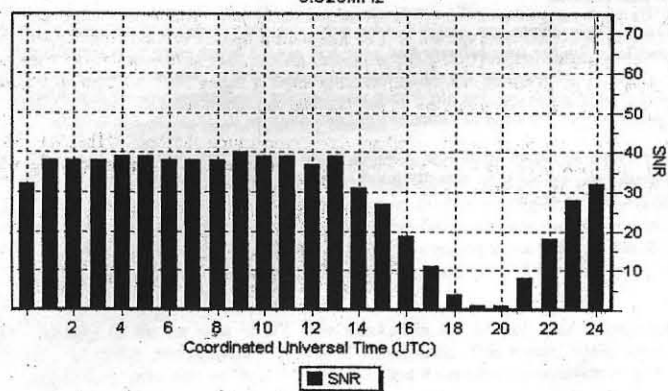
Aug. 2005 SSN: 26 Philadelphia, PA to Los Angeles, CA
6.925MHz



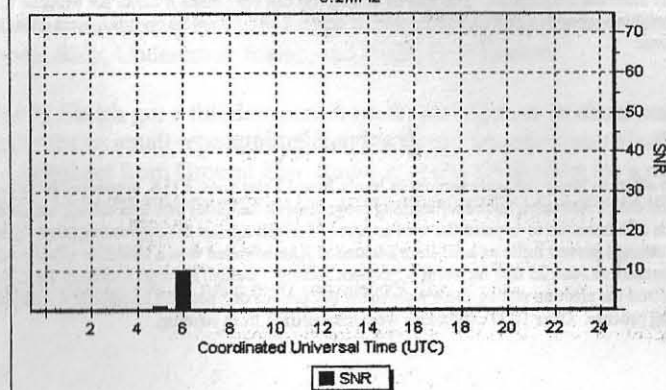
Aug. 2005 SSN: 26 Kansas City, KS to Amsterdam, Netherlands
6.2MHz



Aug. 2005 SSN: 26 Kansas City, KS to Los Angeles, CA
6.925MHz



Aug. 2005 SSN: 26 Los Angeles, CA to Amsterdam, Netherlands
6.2MHz



Clandestine Profile

by Vincent R. Havrilko

E-mail: vincent.havrilko@blab.centaf.af.mil

Active Clandestines – 185

Inactive – 536

(Courtesy of www.clandestineradio.com)

This Month's Features:

Greetings from Balad Air Base, Iraq (otherwise known as Mortarville). As I type this, we just came out of an alarm red after a mortar or rocket attack. I won't know which until I read the intelligence report tomorrow. I'm trying to find active frequencies on my scanner and so far, a few have been netted. Some are encrypted but others are not. I apologize for missing the last two columns but the long hours and constant danger of getting attacked keeps one occupied. I did bring my Sangean ATS909 portable and strung a wind-up antenna in the sandbag-covered trailer where I reside. I can pull in some good signals so I'll try to get a few loggings from this side of the world but I can't promise anything, though. If anyone has any loggings, they wish to send, you can reach me at: vincent.havrilko@blab.centaf.af.mil until 1 September. This first topic will cover the funding crisis at Zimbabwe's SW Radio Africa, which may lead to its closure. Next, the U.S. effort to undermine Iranian elections will be discussed. In addition, some information about Taleban Radio will be presented. Finally, a link to the latest clandestineradio.com schedule will be provided as well as some loggings from my home away from home in Iraq.

Zimbabwe: Radio SW Africa in Crisis

Mr. Gerry Jackson, the station's founder told Clandestine Radio Watch that due to funding issues, the station might close down shortwave operations on May 31 but continue medium wave operations for one month.

Zimbabwe has been put on the top list of human rights violators due to the tyrannical regime of President Robert Mugabe. Prior to this year's election, Mugabe garnered support from China and Iran for broadcasting assistance in the form of jamming the station's transmissions forcing it to use alternate frequencies. The loss of this station can only make it easier for Mugabe to tighten his oppressive grip on this troubled country. I will follow up on this in next month's column.

Iranian Elections

In an effort to lower the voter turnout in Iran's June 17 elections, a U.S. sponsored broadcast station called Alwaziya has been beaming programs (via satellite) into Iran calling on the ethnic Arabs of Khuzestan to boycott the vote as part of a revolt against the oppressive Islamic regime. The attempt proved futile as hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won a landslide victory and announced on June 25 that he wants a 'modern society'. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw criticized the election stating there were many allegations of fraud and interference with the voting process. Over 1000 candidates were disqualified from running.

Taleban Radio

Vestiges of the Taleban regime in Afghanistan are planning to launch a radio station to broadcast their usual fare of extremist propaganda in Pashto and Dari. The name of the station is Voice of Shariat but it will have fierce competition from over 40 independent radio stations and 8 television channels.

Clandestineradio.com Schedule Matrix

The list is far too large to reprint here so a link is provided below.
<http://www.clandestineradio.com/skeds/>

Loggings

Time and Dates are in UTC

Voice of Mesopotamia / 11.530 / AM / Kurdish / 27 Jun 05 / 0536 / 353 / Local mx; vocals; ID @ 0545; tk between two OM's

Radio Farda / 15.290 / AM / Farsi / 27 Jun 05 / 0610 / 353 / AA mx; tk in presumed Farsi by OM ancr; OM w/ ID@ 0610; YL w/ ID @ 0625

73's and Good DX, Vince

Veried Response

Ye Olde Jta

PO Box 1

Belfast, NY 14711

verresp@localnet.com

August 2005

under the door...
the QSL report

Bill Finn covered a few more holes in his wall with QSLs from The Crystal Ship, Undercover Radio, and Radio Free Boston.

Woody Smith got a full data card from Radio Mercury in about one month for an email report, a full data full color "atomic bomb blast" card and infosheet from Ground Zero Radio in about six months for a mailed report, and a frequency only eQSL from Sycho Radio in a few hours for a report on the FRN.

Let's see **your** report here next month! 73, jta

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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